

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Ryoichi IMANAKA *et al.* :  
 :  
Conf No.: Not Yet Assigned :  
 :  
Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned : Examiner:  
 :  
Filed: Herewith :  
 : Attorney Docket  
For: DATA STORAGE, MANAGEMENT, : No. 8861-402US  
AND DELIVERY METHOD : (P24583-01)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Simultaneously with the filing of the above-identified application with which this Preliminary Amendment is being filed, and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, Applicant hereby amends the application as follows, without prejudice:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please delete the CLAIMS section and replace it with the new CLAIMS section, shown in clean form attached hereto, having the bracketed additions and stricken deletions as shown in the attached marked-up version.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 26 are pending in the application.

The purpose of this amendment is to place the claims in appropriate U.S. form and delete the multiple dependent claims in this application, and thereby eliminate excessive claim fees. Such amendments are formal in nature and no new matter is added by any of the above amendments. Entry of this amendment and early examination of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**RYOICHI IMANAKA *et al.***

3/19/01

(Date)

By:



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Enclosure

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